

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, March 25, 2003 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Teresa DeBenedictis, Ralph Elwell, Larry Englisher, Lt. Jim McHugh, Mike Rademacher, Scott Smith, Ed Starr

Others present: Ed Cuoco and Paolo Marinelli

Administrative Items

The minutes of 2/25 were approved unanimously with one correction.

Zipcar

Ralph Elwell reported that Larry Slotnick (of ZipCar) has spoken with Alan McClennen. A parking space was quoted at \$250. If that means \$250 / month, it is too expensive for ZipCar. Scott Smith suggested that Ralph send an email to Larry Slotnick and Alan McClennen to seek clarification on whether the \$250 is per month or per year.

Spring / Jason Street Intersection

David Walkinshaw plans to bring this to the Board of Selectmen sometime in April, probably on 4/14. Teresa DiBenedictis reported that the neighbors wished to pay for granite curbing. Our recommendation was to avoid permanent curbing at the outset; rather, to make sure that the improvements work functionally first. Lt. McHugh raised an equity issue: what if other neighborhoods can't afford such beautification?

We agreed that in general, TAC would only focus on the basic functionality of an improvement.

Pleasant Street

David Walkinshaw reported that he and Ed Cuoco walked Pleasant Street about a month ago. Signage is a mess. Specific issues include the following:

- A speed limit 25 sign may be missing on the southbound side, near Gray. Jim McHugh will check the speed zones.
- Several non-reflective signs should be removed or replaced
- Curve chevron signs are needed
- Crosswalk treatments and signs are needed
- The pedestrian warning signs should be restored, pending a more permanent solution.

Ed Cuoco raised the issue of bus stop signs. Jim McHugh had discussed these signs with David McKenna. They are not intended to be seen by motorists, only by the bus drivers.

Crosswalk working group

Larry Englisher reported that the crosswalk working group last met on 3/11 and next plans to meet on 4/23. Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that for the Arlington Center pedestrian counts

- Academy Street has moderate pedestrian volume
- During weekday peak hours, Town Hall has very low volume

- Water Street has high pedestrian volumes.

There was very little jaywalking between Academy and Court, but more jaywalking south of Court Street.

The committee unanimously voted to recommend thermoplastic at the 7 highest priority locations, and to offer \$3,000 of the Town Meeting allocation to TAC for the effort. Teresa DiBenedictis reported an estimated cost of \$400 per crosswalk, so \$3,000 should be sufficient. Locations are all along Massachusetts Avenue, and include Academy/Central, Library Way/Water, Bartlett, Marathon, Orvis/Grafton, Wyman, and Coleman.

Measurement Data

Ed Starr presented the traffic measurement data as collected by the Police department. Ed will check the exact time period covered by the peak AM and PM numbers (is it 2 or 3 hours?). Scott Smith noted that this assembled data will be of great value to the Town, and asked Jim McHugh to add existing Cleveland Street data to the list.

Ed Starr also presented the draft measurement plan for next year. Jim McHugh noted that due to staff reductions at the APD, the measurements will be made at a slower pace this year. Scott Smith offered to review the proposed locations along Massachusetts Avenue, and Elisabeth Carr-Jones noted that some of the streets near the Symmes site will be important.

Pleasant Street news

Ed Cuoco reported that a bill to restrict nighttime truck traffic on Pleasant Street will receive a hearing at the State House on 4/1/2003.

Accident and citation statistics from the traffic division

Jim McHugh presented the summary statistics from the past three years:

	2000	2001	2002
Total Crashes	681	698	679
Injured	153	150	116
Vehicle Citations	5659	3992	6012
Parking Tickets	18870	18054	18817

After some discussion of how to best support the Traffic Unit, David Walkinshaw suggested we could give a report to Town Meeting.

Financial Planning

We have a bit less than \$30K left over from a previous Town Meeting appropriation, and can roll it over. Ed Starr will send a letter to the comptroller, with a copy to Al Tosti. For warrant article 67, there was general consensus that we should either withdraw it, or submit a substitute motion for an item such as a trial speed hump or additional thermoplastic crosswalks. Ed Starr reported that Alan McClennen has not yet finalized the recommendations on CDBG funding.

Bylaw Working group

Ralph Elwell reported that this working group is on hold until after the Town election on April 5.

Transportation news

Teresa DiBenedictis reported that the new Public Works Director, John Sanchez, will start on Monday 3/31. Elisabeth Carr-Jones reported that the Symmes committee is dealing with several transportation issues now.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda, traffic measurements, measurement plan – from Ed Starr

Minutes from February 25, 2003, Mass. Ave. corridor update – from Scott Smith

Crosswalk priority list – from Larry Englisher

Crash and citation summary – from Jim McHugh